

November 6, 1958

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Dear Mel:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 4th. I could not help but be puzzled by the discrepancy between Harry Eagle's account of him and what I had heard through Art. On the basis of the hour or two of personal contact I had with him and your last letter I would be inclined to go ahead on a strictly probationary basis because it seems to me that he has a scientific experience that is going to be very difficult to match anywhere else. This has not gone very far just yet and what I had in mind was to approach him with the possibility of an instructorship in genetics at Stanford. I definitely would not want to go ahead with this if there were a serious prospect that he would be unable to get along with you in particular and if you have enough doubts on this point that you would want to discourage even a probationary arrangement I will drop the matter forthwith. I am waiting to hear a little bit more about him from Harry and expect that the time would be ripe for direct approach in a week or perhaps two weeks. So if I am taking too optimistic a view of the situation please let me know right away.

I should also mention that Henry Kaplan is very much interested in Herzenberg too but feels that from his own point of view he might be better off in a basic science where, if he has the stuff, he would have somewhat better chances of advancement. Since you have had three months contact with him I just have to rely on your judgment of these personal factors although I realise how awkward it may be to have to accept such a responsibility. I do wonder however if it would be possible to get any deeper insight into his capabilities by any measure short of having him come out, let's say for a year on a basis like an instructorship or research associatship. If I don't hear from you within the next several days or week I will just assume that I have correctly construed the intent of your letter for which thanks very much.

Yours sincerely,